(b) whether it is also a fact that once again resource crisis, that has derailed many projects in the past, may prove a stumbling block; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to ward off such on eventuality ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir, this will be achieved through adoption of appropriate production and protection technologies relevant to various cropping systems.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Functioning of farm Universities in the Country

123. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farm universities in the country and what are the details of annual State expenditure on them besides the funds from the ICAR for financing various research projects ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has revealed serious lapses in the functioning of several universities and the IARI (New Delhi), in respect of ineffective monitoring of programmes and involving a lot of wasteful expenditure; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to solve the problems indicated by the CAG ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the Sabha in due course.

Arrears of dues Payable to Sugarcane Growers in Uttar Pradesh

124. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high prices of sugarcane as advised by states had let to build up of arrears of dues and discouraged farmers from growing sugarcane;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to cope up with the situation;

(c) the amount of arrears still outstanding as on July, 1993, especially amount of arrears due against Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to help settle such dues with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that high State Advised Prices of sugarcane give rise to incidence of arrears. Mounting of arrears also affect the liquidity of the industry. Delay in payment of cane price dues may prompt the farmers to switch over to other remunerative crops.

(b) to (d) To improve the economic viability of the sugar factories and to liquidate the cane price arrears the Government has taken the following measures:

(i) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1992-93 season was raised from Rs. 27 per quintal to Rs. 31 per quintal. The SMP for 1993-94 season has been fixed at Rs. 34.50 per quintal. An advance announcement for 1994-95 season has also been made at the rate of Rs. 37.00 per quintal.

(ii) Levy to free sale ratio was changed from 45 : 55 to 40 : 60 in February, 1993.

(iii) The release mechanism has been regulated in such a manner so as to ensure adequate realisation to the sugar factories.

(iv) Special releases have been allowed to sugar factories which were having high cane price arrears.